

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 01953 170309Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-08 FRB-03  
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02  
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 EUR-12 INT-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 /070 W  
-----170429Z 071943 /63

R 170231Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3819

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 1953

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, CH

SUBJECT: 1976 CHINESE STEEL PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 23305, PEKING 268, PEKING 273

1. A COMMENTARY IN THE PRC-CONTROLLED HONG KONG NEW EVENING POST (FEB. 15) ON "GANG OF FOUR" DISRUPTIONS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY QUOTED AN AFP REPORT FROM PEKING DATED JAN. 28 THAT PUT CHINA'S 1976 STEEL OUTPUT AT 21 MMT. THE ARTICLE ALSO REPLAYED AFP'S STEEL OUTPUT FIGURES OF 25 MMT FOR BOTH 1975 AND 1973 AND 24 MMT FOR 1974. CARRYING THE "GANG" DISRUPTION THEME FURTHER, THE COMMENTARY SPECULATED THAT IF THE "GANG" HAD BEEN UNCHECKED FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR, STEEL PRODUCTION MIGHT HAVE DROPPED BELOW 20 MMT IN 1976.

2. ON THE SAME SUBJECT, A FEB. 12 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE BY THE MINISTRY OF METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY ALSO QUOTES THE "GANG'S BLACK HANDS IN THE MINISTRY" AS SAYING  
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"IT IS A SMALL MATTER IF STEEL PRODUCTION DROPS BY A FEW MILLION TONS."

3. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE CONTEXT WHETHER USE OF THE 21 MMT FIGURE CONSTITUTES ENDORSEMENT OR WHETHER THE COMMENTARY WAS SIMPLY USING READILY AVAILABLE--IF NON-OFFICIAL--STATISTICS TO PROVE A

POINT. THAT IT HAS APPEARED IN A PRC-CONTROLLED  
NEWSPAPER, HOWEVER, DOES AT LEAST ADD INDIRECT SUPPORT  
TO THE FIGURE.  
CROSS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STEEL, PRODUCTION DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977HONGK01953  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Message ID:** 49aa17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 23305, 77 PEKING 268, 77 PEKING 273  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** EIND, CH  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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